to decontrol sugar in a phased manner. Accordingly, the levy on sugar industry was reduced from 40 percent to 30 percent with effect from 01.01.2000 and subsequently to 15% with effect from 01.02.2001. Government has also decided to introduce futures/ forward trading in sugar.

(b) and (c) The wholesale prices of S-30 grade of sugar in the four principal markets of the country, namely, Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai during the months of June and July 2001 ranged between Rs. 1400—Rs. 1620/- per quintal, while during the corresponding months of the previous year, they were in the range of Rs. 1370—1620 per quintal. Thus, the prices are more or less steady.

Extension of Antyodaya to more beneficiaries

1988. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take any step to extend the Antyodaya' programmes to more beneficiaries under BPL;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantity of foodgrains distributed so far under the above said programme; and

(d) whether Government have announced any new scheme to increase the off-take through PDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Do not arise.

(c) Monthly allocation of 1,29,691 tonnes of foodgrains has been made so far to 17 States and UTs under Antyodaya Anna Yojana.

(d) In order to reduce excess stocks the Government has initiated the following measures under TPDS w.e.f. 12.7.2001:

(i) The BPL allocation of foodgrains has been increased from 20 kg. to 25 kg. per family per month w.e.f. July, 2001.

(ii) It has been decided to allot foodgrains for APL category at the discounted rate of 70% of the economic cost.

Procurement of Levy Rice in Andhra Pradesh

1989. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether FCI has instructed to stop purchase of paddy and give preference to procurement of levy rice in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the procurement of rice made till date during this year in the State and the target set up for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN):(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As on 6.8.2001, a quantity of 65.77 lakh MTs of levy rice has been procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in Andhra Pradesh as against the target of 70 lakh MTs fixed for the current Kharif Marketing Season 2000-2001. Besides FCI will also accept Custom Milled Rice out of 70% share of 10 lakh tonnes of paddy from the State Agencies of Andhra Pradesh.

Welfare Measures for Poor

1990. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether hunger and poverty compelled a mother to sell her son for Rs. 300/- in New Jalpaiguri as reported in news-papers on 26th June, 2001; and

(b) if so, the welfare measures proposed to be taken to feed those who cannot afford to purchase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) The Government of West